

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Final Office Action dated March 30, 2005, regarding the above-identified application. Currently claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-19 and 21-29 are pending in the application, wherein claims 1, 4, 6-11, 17-19, 21-26, 28 and 29 are rejected and claims 2, 3, 12, 14-16 and 27 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim.

In order to advance the application to allowance, or otherwise remove issues for appeal, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 18, and added new claims 30-32, which incorporate limitations of claims previously objected to by the Examiner as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Furthermore, claims 15, 19, and 21-29 have been cancelled with this amendment. Entry of the amended claims is respectfully requested. The amendments to the claim set have been provided in view of the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims objected to in the Final Office Action. Applicants assert no new matter and no new issues requiring further search have been added with the amendments.

Newly added claim 30 includes the limitations of claim 16 objected to by the Examiner. Applicants assert by effectively incorporating the subject matter claimed in claim 16 into an independent form, claim 30 is acceptable as being in condition for allowance. The limitations of claim 2, also objected to by the Examiner, have been incorporated into claim 31. The limitations of claim 3, objected to by the Examiner, have been incorporated into claim 32. Thus, each of claims 30, 31 and 32 reflect subject matter asserted by the Examiner as being allowable. Favorable consideration of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 6-9, 17-24, 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Phan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,192,286). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 15, which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Correspondingly, claim 15 has been cancelled from the application. Therefore, claim 1 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Because claim 1 is believed allowable, claims 4, 6-9 and 17 are believed additionally allowable as properly depending from claim 1.

Claim 18 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 27, which was indicated by the Examiner as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, Applicants assert claim 18 is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 19-24, 28 and 29 have been cancelled from the application, thus making the rejection of these claims moot. In canceling these claims, Applicants do not concede the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection.

Claims 10, 11, 25 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Phan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,192,286) in view of Oslund et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,740,061). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 1. Claim 1 is believed allowable for at least the reasons stated above; therefore, claims 10 and 11 are correspondingly believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 25 and 26 have been cancelled from the application, thus making the rejection of these claims moot. In canceling these claims, Applicants do not concede the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection.

Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Phan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,192,286) in view of Ladd (U.S. Patent No. 6,059,814). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 29 has been cancelled from the application, thus making the rejection of this claim moot. In canceling the claim, Applicants do not concede the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection.

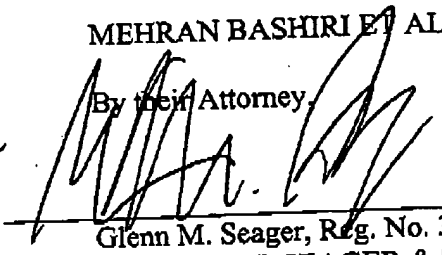
Reexamination and reconsideration is respectfully requested. It is submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is anticipated. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Attorney.

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